

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 10:30 a.m. for Morning Hour  
and 12:00 Noon for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

- H.R. 4110—Veterans Benefits Improvement Act**  
**H.R. 3980—Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Care and Research Act**  
**S. 2143—Supreme Court Volunteers Act**  
**H.R. 2759—Health Professional Shortage Area Nursing Relief Act**  
**H.R. 3843—Granting a Federal Charter to the American GI Forum**  
**H.R. 2592—Private Trustee Reform Act**  
**H.R. 3633—Controlled Substances Trafficking Prohibition Act**  
**H.R. 2070—Correction Officers Health and Safety Act**  
**H.R. 3821—Designating the George H.W. Bush Center for Central Intelligence**  
**H.J.Res. 125—Joint Resolution Finding Iraq in Breach of Its International Obligations**  
**H.R. 3743—Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act**  
**H.Res. 469—Sense of the House Regarding Assistance to Mexico to Combat Wildfires**  
**H.R. 434—Santa Fe National Forest Land Conveyance (Agreeing to Senate Amendments)**  
**H.R. 765—Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Act (Agreeing to Senate Amendments)**  
**H.R. 1728—National Park Service New Areas Studies Act**  
**H.R. 3047—Authorizing the Expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site**  
**H.R. 3460—Renewing an International Fishing Agreement with the Republic of Latvia**  
**S. 2344—Emergency Farm Financial Relief Act**  
**H.R. 4037—Electronic Access of Material Safety Data Sheets**  
**H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (Continue Consideration)**

—Continued on Next Page—

## H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act



### Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following 19 bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 4110—Veterans Benefits Improvement Act** contains a number of measures to improve and enhance current veterans benefits programs. Specifically, the bill provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for FY 1999 for veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation and survivors of deceased veterans who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits. In addition, the bill simplifies and improves VA education programs, makes Reservists and National Guard members permanently eligible for the VA home loan program, increases to 100 percent the federal share of grants to states to establish state veterans cemeteries, and makes a number of changes to improve the internal operation of the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 4110 will increase direct spending by approximately \$8 million in FY 1999 and \$36 million over the FY 1999-2003 period. The bill increases discretionary spending by approximately \$18 million a year. The bill was introduced by Mr. Stump; the Veterans' Affairs Committee reported H.R. 4110 by voice vote.

**H.R. 3980—Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Care and Research Act** establishes priority VA health care enrollment to treat illnesses that may be attributable to a veteran's service in any combat period after the Vietnam War or any future combat service. The measure also extends—through December 31, 2001—the VA's special authority to provide care to Persian Gulf War veterans and elevates their level of priority for access to VA health care. In addition, the measure requires the VA to establish a multi-disciplinary National Center for the Study of War-Related Illnesses to support research, education, and improved clinical treatment of war-related illnesses. Finally, the bill establishes a number of measures to ensure public input on federal Gulf War illness strategies and requires federal agencies to report to Congress on those efforts. The bill was introduced by Mr. Stearns; the Veterans' Affairs Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**S. 2143—Supreme Court Volunteers Act** allows the Supreme Court Administrative Assistant's Office to use volunteers as part of its tour corps of full-time employees assigned to provide historical tours of the Supreme Court building to its visitors. Every year, over one million people visit the Court, which places an extra personnel burden to ensure that it has enough tour guides and resources to properly and efficiently serve citizens and foreign visitors to the historical landmark. The use of volunteers at a federal landmark is not unprecedented; the U.S. Capitol currently uses approximately 35 volunteers for its Capitol Guide Service to assist visitors with tours around the Capitol complex. According to the guide service, the volume of tours has been increased by 25 percent as a result of the additional manpower available through the use of volunteers. CBO did not complete a cost estimate for S. 2143. However, the bill is expected to have no impact on the federal budget. S. 2143 was referred to the House on July 17, 1998; the measure passed the full Senate by unanimous consent on July 16, 1998 and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 2759—Health Professional Shortage Area Nursing Relief Act** amends the 1996 Immigration and Nationality Act (*P.L. 104-208*) to establish a non-immigrant category for nurses who immigrate to the U.S. to work in areas where health care professionals are in short supply. The bill also outlines the restrictions of the nurses' service in the U.S., including limiting them to a five-year maximum stay in the country. The focus of the nurses' application will be in rural and sparsely populated areas where access to medical attention is more difficult to reach, which, in turn, makes health care professionals less likely to be available in those areas. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 2759 will result in negligible effects on the federal budget. H.R. 2759 was introduced by Rep. Rush and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on March 24, 1998.

**H.R. 3843—Granting a Federal Charter to the American GI Forum** grants a federal charter to the American GI Forum, a veterans organization comprised primarily of Hispanic members. The GI Forum will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August. It currently boasts a membership of over 100,000 veterans, and has historically worked very closely with various administrations and other veterans groups to represent its members and their concerns. The group wishes to establish a federal charter so that it can more easily work on task forces and other coalitions with the administration, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, which may rely on federally chartered groups for input into its discussions on matters of policy affecting the group and its membership. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3843 will have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.R. 3843 was introduced by Mr. Rodriguez. The Judiciary Immigration and Claims Subcommittee forwarded the bill to the full committee by voice vote on July 23, 1998. The measure was not acted upon by the full committee.

**H.R. 2592—Private Trustee Reform Act** amends current law to grant authority to bankruptcy courts to determine the actual, necessary expenses of a standing bankruptcy trustee. The bill directs the court to consider all relevant factors which may affect a trustee's expenses incurred when overseeing cases, including whether the expense (1) will benefit the administration of cases by the trustee, and (2) is reasonable, based on the customary and usual expenses incurred by fiduciaries providing services of comparable nature. The bill allows the appointed trustee to seek judicial review of a decision by the bankruptcy court to which he is assigned that prevents him from receiving case assignments or receiving a lesser load of case assignments. Finally, the bill authorizes bankruptcy courts to order injunctive relief in favor of an appointed trustee in such cases where case assignment disputes the court and an appointed trustee cannot be expediently resolved. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 2592 will have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.R. 2592 was introduced by Mr. Goodlatte and was reported by the Judiciary Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on July 28, 1998.

**H.R. 3633—Controlled Substances Trafficking Prohibition Act** amends current law to limit the amount of controlled substances that enter the U.S. from Mexico each year. Under current law, the Attorney General has the authority to exempt persons who bring controlled substances into the U.S. if they are for personal medical use or for an animal accompanying them such as a seeing eye dog, if the substance was lawfully obtained. However, the exemption is limited to apply only to those who do not possess a prescription written by a licensed practitioner (or documentation which verifies such a prescription). In these cases, an individual may not bring in more than 50 dosage units of a controlled substance; or, for persons who are not a legal U.S. citizen or resident, they are limited to an amount equal to dosages consistent with the amount of time they will be in the United States (as determined by a U.S. Customs official at the border). CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3633

will have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.R. 3633 was introduced by Mr. Chabot and was reported by the Judiciary Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 20, 1998.

**H.R. 2070—Correction Officers Health and Safety Act** requires federal prison inmates to be tested for the HIV virus when officials of the system have reason to believe that the inmate may have transmitted the disease to a prison employee or other person present at the prison. Specifically, when an incident occurs which gives rise to this belief, a person may request that an inmate be tested; once completed, the results of the test will be communicated to the person requesting the test. H.R. 2070 was introduced by Mr. Solomon on and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on July 21, 1998

**H.R. 3821** designates the Headquarters Compound of the Central Intelligence Agency located in Langley, Virginia, as the “George H.W. Bush Center for Central Intelligence,” and changes any reference to it in law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States. The measure was introduced by Mr. Portman and was not considered by any committee.

**H.J. Res. 125—Finding The Government of Iraq in Material and Unacceptable Breach of Its International Obligations** spells out the history of Iraq’s non-compliance with its obligations under U.N. Security Council resolutions dating back to 1991, and declares that the government of Iraq is in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations. The material and unacceptable breach terminology is drawn verbatim from a U.N. Security Council statement dated July 6, 1992. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Gingrich and the International Relations Committee passed the measure by voice vote on July 21, 1998.

**H.R. 3743—Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act** amends the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act to withhold U.S. proportional voluntary assistance to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for programs and projects of the Agency in Iran. Specifically, the bill (1) withholds voluntary contributions to the IAEA for programs and projects in Iran, (2) directs the Secretary of State to undertake an annual review and report to the Congress on the IAEA’s programs and projects to ensure that they are consistent with U.S. nuclear non-proliferation and safety goals, (3) directs the U.S. Representative at the IAEA to oppose any programs that are determined under review to be inconsistent with U.S. policy, and (4) expresses the sense of Congress that the U.S. should pursue internal reforms at the IAEA to ensure that all programs and projects funded under the technical cooperation and assistance fund are compatible with U.S. nuclear non-proliferation policy and international nuclear non-proliferation norms. The bill was introduced by Mr. Menendez and the International Relations Committee passed the measure by voice vote on July 22, 1998.

**H.Res. 469—Regarding Assistance to Mexico to Combat Wildfires** calls attention to the recent raging fires that engulfed over one million acres of land in Mexico and calls on the president to provide disaster relief assistance to help combat these fires. The resolution also calls on the U.S. to initiate negotiations with Mexico to come to an agreement regarding suppressing border fires. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hall (TX) *et al.* and was passed by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on July 21, 1998.

**H.R. 434—Santa Fe National Forest Land Conveyance Act (Agreeing to Senate Amendments)**, as amended by the Senate, requires the Agriculture Secretary to convey within 60 days of enactment (either through sale or exchange) a one-acre parcel in the Santa Fe National Forest to the town of

Jemez Springs as a site for a fire substation to provide room for additional water tankers. The bill was introduced last January by then-Representative Bill Richardson, who has since resigned and is now the Energy Secretary. It is supported by his successor, Representative Bill Redmond. The Senate eliminated a provision in the House-passed bill that would have transferred five acres in the Carson National Forest to the village of El Rito to expand its cemetery. The House approved the measure by voice vote on November 4, 1997. The Senate passed the bill (*S.Rept. 105-359*), as amended, by unanimous consent on July 17, 1998.

**H.R. 765—Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Protection Act (Agreeing to Senate Amendments)**, as amended by the Senate, directs the Interior Secretary to allow a herd of wild horses to be maintained at the Cape Lookout National Seashore (CALO) located on Core Banks, North Carolina. The National Park Service (NPS) and the Foundation of Shackleford Horses, a private non-profit foundation, will jointly manage the herd of approximately 100 wild horses. The agreement must establish measures to ensure the cost-effective management of such horses while ensuring that natural resources within the seashore are not adversely impacted. In addition, the agreement must allow the foundation to adopt horses that the secretary removes from the seashore. Finally, the bill prohibits the secretary from removing or permitting the removal of any free-roaming horses from federal lands within the seashore unless: (1) the number of horses exceeds 110; (2) there is an emergency or a need to protect public health and safety; or (3) the foundation fails to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Senate made only minor technical modifications to the bill. The bill was introduced by Mr. Jones; the House approved the measure by a vote of 416-6 on July 22, 1997. The Senate passed the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 17, 1998.

**H.R. 1728—National Park System New Area Studies Act** establishes a statutory process for reviewing new areas as potential additions to the National Park System. The bill requires the Interior Secretary—at the beginning of the year in connection with his annual budget request—to submit to Congress a list of areas recommended for study that may meet the established criteria of national importance, suitability, and feasibility. The studies, upon being authorized by Congress, must be completed within three years and must identify the management alternative preferred by the National Park Service (NPS). Assuming appropriation of authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 1728 will spend an additional \$2 million annually. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hefley; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3047** authorizes the expansion—by 16 additional acres—of the Fort Davis national historic site in Southwest Texas. The legislation that established the site limited it to its current size of 460 acres. The Conservation Fund, a private foundation, has purchased (through private donations) the 16 acres adjacent to the site and is slated to donate the parcel to the National Park Service (NPS) for inclusion in the historic site. The land to be acquired is needed to protect the site's historic setting and viewshed. The NPS is concerned about commercial development in close proximity to the historical site. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3047 will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bonilla; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 3460** renews an international fishery agreement between the United States and the Republic of Latvia. The bill enforces the agreement on the date of enactment and extends it to December 31, 1999. Specifically, the measure (1) reauthorizes the 1995 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act through FY 2001; (2) requires an annual report to Congress on the activities of the Fisheries

Commission, the General Council, and the Scientific Council; and (3) requires the Commerce Secretary, acting through the Secretary of State, to negotiate with the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) on an allocation system where quotas in the NAFO Regulatory Area are allocated to new members. Finally, the bill reauthorizes the 1975 Atlantic Tunas Convention Act through FY 2001. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3460 will result in new spending of \$18 million over the FY 1999-2003 period. The bill was introduced by Mr. Saxton; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**S. 2344—Emergency Farm Financial Relief Act** gives farmers the choice of receiving all of their Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) contract payments at any time in FY 1999 starting on October 1, 1998. Currently, annual payments are made twice a year, first in December or January and then again in September. The bill makes \$5.5 billion immediately available in an effort to help farmers cope with cash shortages they are experiencing because of low prices and harsh weather conditions. The 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act, (FAIR *P.L. 104-494*) established a new system of price and income supports for producers of wheat, feed grains, rice, cotton, and oilseeds. Production flexibility contracts offer fixed, but declining, annual payments to farmers, which replaced target price payments. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. S. 2344 was referred to the House on July 31, 1998; the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on July 30, 1998.

**H.R. 4037—Electronic Access of Material Safety Data Sheets** requires the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) to clarify that employees may access material safety data sheets (MSDSs) by electronic means, and put “emergency overview” information on the front of MSDSs. In addition, the bill (1) allows suppliers of MSDSs to either attach the required product label to the front of the sheets or attach a separate sheet of paper with the same information; (2) gives chemical companies 18 months to add new emergency overview text to new MSDSs and 36 months for existing MSDSs; (3) requires the Labor Secretary to report to the House Education & Workforce Committee and the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee on necessary changes to the bill resulting from the development of an international standard format for hazard communication; and (4) requires the Labor Secretary to study the usefulness of MSDSs from the standpoint of whether the hazard warnings are understandable to most industrial workers, and to circulate the report to chemical companies and other suppliers of MSDSs. The bill was introduced by Ms. Granger on June 11, 1998 and was reported by the Education & Workforce Committee by voice vote on July, 29, 1998.



## **H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House is scheduled to continue consideration of H.R. 2183 after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. The House has been considering the Shays-Meehan substitute under a modified open rule. The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides an hour of general debate on each substitute. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments to the substitutes pre-printed in the *Congressional Record* and prohibits perfecting amendments to the substitutes that include tax or tariff measures. The rule states that if more than one substitute amendment is adopted, the one which receives the greatest

number of votes will prevail and be reported back to the House. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 2183 amends the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) to (1) ban the use of certain “soft money” by national political parties and federal candidates; (2) increase the aggregate annual limit on contributions made by individuals to political parties; and (3) repeal limitations on the amount of coordinated expenditures that may be made by political parties. The bill indexes contribution limits to inflation beginning in 1999. The bill requires that radio and television communications paid for by third parties be fully disclosed. It revises current Federal Election Commission (FEC) filing requirements to mandate monthly reports by principal campaign committees and other political committees and requires electronic filing for certain reports. The bill also eliminates the “best efforts” exception with respect to obtaining information regarding the occupation or the name of employers of certain individual contributors. The bill was introduced by Hutchinson *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

**Views:** The Republican leadership has not taken a unified position on the measure or any of the substitutes. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was also unavailable at press time.

**Substitutes:** The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides for an hour of general debate on each substitute. The House is expected to complete consideration of the Shays-Meehan substitute today.

### — *Shays-Meehan Substitute* —

The Shays-Meehan substitute eliminates federal and state soft money that influences federal elections. It redefines the concept of “express advocacy,” as it applies to campaign spending by independent groups and party organizations, to include radio and television communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate within 60 days of an election or those communications that include unmistakable support for or opposition to a clearly identified federal candidate outside the 60-day period. The substitute permits only hard money to be used for express advocacy ads. The amendment requires candidates to file their FEC reports electronically and requires the FEC to post reports on the Internet.

The substitute requires anyone who makes an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more within 20 days of an election to file a report with the FEC within 24 hours and permits the FEC to conduct random audits and investigations of campaign committees. The amendment prohibits a campaign committee from depositing a contribution check before all contributor information is complete.

It clarifies restrictions on fundraising on federal property and codifies the Supreme Court’s *Beck* decision, which requires labor organizations to annually notify employees who pay agency fees that they are eligible to object to the use of their funds for political activities. Finally, the amendment bans political parties from making coordinated expenditures on behalf of those candidates that do not limit their own spending to \$50,000. The amendment contains the language of H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which was introduced by Mr. Shays and Mr. Meehan on March 19, 1998. **Staff Contacts:** *Allison Rak (Shays), x5-5541; Amy Rosenbaum (Meehan), x5-3411*

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #14, Pt. II, June 1, 1998.



## **H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House may conduct general debate on H.R. 4276 after it completes consideration of H.R. 2183. Last week, the House adopted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, as well as House rules which prohibit unauthorized appropriations, legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations. It makes in order three specific amendments—by Mr. Molloy, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Hefley—and waives points of order against them. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, provided that it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 4276 appropriates \$28 billion for the departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the federal judiciary, and 18 related agencies, \$1.4 billion more than last year and \$1 billion less than President Clinton requested. Together with \$5.5 billion from the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund plus mandatory programs, the bill provides a total of \$33.5 billion in new budget authority. The bill focuses on enhancing numerous crime enforcement and reduction initiatives, including (1) \$523 million to restore the local law enforcement block grant, which the president's proposal terminated; (2) \$533 million for juvenile crime and prevention programs; (3) state and local law enforcement assistance from programs such as the president's COPS on the Beat initiative which receives \$1.4 billion; (4) Violence Against Women Act programs; (5) counterterrorism activities and protections against biological and chemical weapons; and (6) enhanced border patrol (including funding for 1,000 additional border patrol agents), criminal alien assistance funding.

H.R. 4276 funds Commerce Department programs including the decennial census preparation (\$956 million), National Weather Service and related programs (\$1.1 billion) included in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$2 billion). The bill also eliminates funding for several agencies and commissions that have expired, such as the Commission on Immigration Reform and the Gambling Impact Study Commission. In a similar vein, H.R. 4276 reduces funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to \$141 million and maintains restrictions on LSC-funded agencies from taking certain cases as outlined in the FY 1998 measure. H.R. 4276 appropriates \$5.5 billion for the State Department and related agencies, \$323 million more than in FY 1998. However, if funding for UN arrearages is counted, the bill provides only \$151 million less than FY 1998. CBO does not complete cost estimates for appropriations bills which have not been enacted. However, the committee estimates that enactment of H.R. 4276 will result in net outlays of \$22.3 billion in FY 1999, \$6.3 billion in FY 2000, \$3.2 billion in FY 2001, \$1.3 billion in FY 2002, and \$144 million in FY 2003 and beyond. H.R. 4276 was submitted by Mr. Rogers on July 20, and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on July 15, 1998.



**Views:** The Republican Leadership supports passage of H.R. 4276. An official Clinton Administration position was unavailable at press time. However, the president has expressed his opposition to the bill's provisions restricting funding for the 2000 census and the Legal Services Corporation. Additionally, administration supporters oppose efforts to alter or block implementation of the president's executive order pertaining to expansion of persons specially protected under federal affirmative action law.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #19, July 17, 1998.




---

Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:  
*Senior Legislative Analyst*

Scott Galupo, Jimmy Papadimitriu,  
Brendan Shields, Kevin Smith:  
*Legislative Analysts*

---

House  
REPUBLICAN  
Conference

Legislative  
Digest